



Animas-La Plata Project

Volume 4

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation

March 2000

Public Comment Period Extended



*Farmington,
New Mexico
public hearing*

At public hearings held in February 2000, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) announced the public comment period on the Animas – La Plata Project (ALP Project) Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Draft SEIS) would be extended an additional 30 days to April 17, 2000. A notice of the 30-day extension appeared in the Federal Register on March 9, 2000. The public comment period opened on January 14, 2000 following publication in the Federal Register of the Notice of Availability and release of the Draft SEIS. The document was mailed to over 800 individuals, agencies, and organizations on the ALP Project mailing list. Reclamation is seeking public comments on impacts to environmental resources, including historic resources under the National Historic Preservation Act.

Reclamation conducted public hearings on the ALP Project Draft SEIS on February 15, 16, and 17 in Durango, Colorado; Farmington, New Mexico; and Denver, Colorado, respectively. Approximately 250 people attended the public hearing held in Durango on February 15th. At the Farmington public hearing held the following evening, approximately 100 people attended. In

Denver, a total of 20 people attended. Both written and oral comments were provided by the public and agencies at all three public hearings.

Once the public comment period closes on April 17, 2000, Reclamation will evaluate all comments received on the project. Copies of the comments and Reclamation's responses to those comments will be included in the Final SEIS, which is scheduled to be released in June 2000. Anyone interested in receiving a summary of the Draft SEIS or a complete set consisting of Volumes 1 and 2, should contact Mr. Pat Schumacher, Four Corners Division Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, 835 East 2nd Street, Suite 300, Durango, CO 81301-5475; Telephone (970) 385-6500; Fax: (970) 385-6539. Copies can also be requested via the following email address: pschumacher@uc.usbr.gov. The full text of the Draft SEIS is available on the Internet at <http://www.uc.usbr.gov> under the Environmental Studies Summaries & Reports link.

Ways to Comment on the Draft SEIS

- Mail your written comments to:
Mr. Pat Schumacher, Four Corners Division Manager
Bureau of Reclamation, 835 East 2nd Street,
Suite 300, Durango, CO 81301-5475
- Submit your comments electronically to the
following email address:
ALPDSEISComments@uc.usbr.gov
(This email address is ONLY for comments on
the Draft SEIS.)

To be most helpful, comments should be as specific as possible. **All comments must be received by close of business on April 17, 2000.**

ALP Project Schedule Revised

About this Newsletter

This is the fourth in a series of newsletters designed to bring you the latest information on the environmental and historical properties review process for the Animas-La Plata Project and final implementation of the 1988 Colorado Ute Indian Water Rights Settlement Act. Copies of the first three newsletters are available on the ALP Web page at www.uc.usbr.gov. Look for the next issue to follow the close of the comment period on April 17, 2000.

The timeline for the ALP Project has been revised to reflect the extension of the public comment period to April 17, 2000. The Final

SEIS will be released in June 2000. A Record of Decision (ROD) could be issued as soon as 30 days following the release of the Final SEIS.

Project Timeline

